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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/769,404	01/26/2001	Theo Wallimann	8932-296	4809

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EXAMINER

WANG, SHENGJUN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1617

DATE MAILED: 12/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/769,404	WALLIMANN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Shengjun Wang	1617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, it will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 7, 13, 14, 20-24, 28 and 30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 7, 13, 14, 20-24, 28 and 30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet, 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet, 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 was filed in this application after appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, but prior to a decision on the appeal. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the appeal has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114 and prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on September 23, 2003 has been entered.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 7, 13, 14, 20-24, 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaddurah-Daouk (US 5,998,457) in view of Meisner (US 4,772,591), Grant et al. (US 5,888,553), Beale (US 5,756,469) and Beale (US 5,716,926).
4. Kaddurah-Daouk teaches a method of treating osteoporosis or osteoarthritis comprising administering therapeutical effective amount of creatine compound, or a pharmaceutical acceptable salt, to patient. See, particularly, the abstract, table 1-2, and claims 1-12.
5. Kaddurah-Daouk does not teach expressly the employment of creatine pyruvate for the treatment, or the particular amount administered, or the method may be employed for promoting

Art Unit: 1617

growth and mineralization of bone; improving acceptance and osseous integration of bone; or accelerating healing as claimed in claims 22-24.

6. However, Grant et al. teaches that the excess of cortisol is known to be a cause of osteoporosis, tissue degeneration, and an anabolic composition with anticortisol effect are used to balance effect of cortisol. The anabolic composition comprising creatine. See, column 1, line 52 bridging column 2, line 59, column 5, lines 56-65. and claim 8. Meisner teaches a method for accelerated wound healing or treating degenerative disorders including periodontal disease osteoarthritis, comprising administering a composition comprising creatine to an animal or human. See, particularly, column 1, line 28 bridging column 2, line 45, column 5, lines 3 bridging column 7, line 10. Beale ('469) teaches creatine pyruvate (pyruvyl-creatine) is particularly useful as cortisol antagonist or cortisol blocker for prevent the catabolic activity of cortisol. See column 1, lines 7-18, 54-60; column 3, lines 46-63, and column 5, lines 54-60. Beale ('926) further teaches that pyruvate is known to be useful for treating osteoporosis. See, claim 24.

Therefore, it would have been prima facie obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the claimed the invention was made, to employ creatine pyruvate for treating connective tissue degenerative disorders, including those unrelated to weight gain or weight lose, such as osteoporosis, osteoarthritis or periodontitis, or for accelerating wound healing, promoting growth of connective tissue (cartilage). Note claims 23 and 24 read on the composition comprising creatine pyruvate, since creatine pyruvate is both a creatine salt, and a pyruvate. A person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ creatine pyruvate for treating connective tissue degenerative disorders, including those unrelated to weight gain or

Art Unit: 1617

weight lose, such as osteoporosis, osteoarthritis or periodontitis, or for accelerating wound healing, promoting growth of connective tissue (cartilage) because it is prima facie obvious to combine two compounds each of which is taught in the prior art to be useful for same purpose in order to form third composition that is to be used for very the same purpose; idea of combining them flows logically from their having been individually taught in prior art; thus , the claimed invention which employ a combination (salt) of two compounds known to be useful for treating osteoporosis sets forth prima facie obvious subject matter. See In re Kerkhoven, 205 USPQ 1069. Note treating osteoporosis is to promoting minerization of bone. Further, creatine pyruvate is particularly known to be useful for treating disease associated with cortisol activity and connective tissue degenerative disorders is known to be closely related to cortisol activity. Claims 22-24 are obvious because creatine is known to be useful for promoting tissue repair process, and treating osteoarthritis and osteoporosis would also considered as a process of promoting tissue (cartilage) repairing since one of the major symptoms of osteoarthritis and osteoporosis is tissue degeneration. As to claims 28 and 30, note, in view of the teachings of Beale, Meisner and Grant, one of ordinary skill in the art would have appreciated that therapeutic effect of creatine pyruvate is not limited only to the symptoms related to weight gain or weight lose. Claims 13 and 14 are interpreted broadly as read on the elected invention, i.e., no foreign tissue have been introduced into the bond, since human bone are known to contain cells in general and chondrablasts cell particular. Finally, The optimization of a result effective parameter, e.g., the effective amount of creatine, is considered within the skill of the artisan. See, In re Boesch and Slaney (CCPA) 204 USPQ 215. Furthermore, the instant claims are essentially directed to a particular salt of creatine for treating disorders known to be treated by creatine, or

its derivatives, or its salts. Absent evidence to the contrary, the employment of pyruvate creatine is seen to be a selection from amongst equally suitable material and as such obvious. Ex parte Winters 11 USPQ 2nd 1387 (at 1388).

Response to the Arguments

7. Applicants' amendments and remarks submitted June 25, 2003 have been fully considered, but are not persuasive for reasons discussed below.

Applicants argue that none of the cited references teaches the employment of pyruvate for treating diseases encompassed herein other than osteoporosis, and therefore the claimed invention is not obvious over the cited references. The rebuttal arguments are found not persuasive. Particularly, creatine pyruvate, a salt of creatine, is known to be useful as cortisol blocker, and creatine, or its salts is known to be useful for treating osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, and degenerative disorders. Therefore, the employment of creatine pyruvate is obvious over the teaching of creatine salts.

As to the remarks about Beals' teaching, note Beale shows that creatine pyruvate is particularly useful as cortisol blocker. Further, Beale does not limit his teaching to increasing lean body weight, but for improving catabolism in general (column 5, lines 43-53 in '469).

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shengjun Wang, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (703) 308-4554. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 to 5:00.

Art Unit: 1617

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreeni Padmanabhan, can be reached on (703) 305-1877. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-4556.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.

Primary Examiner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Wang' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shengjun Wang

December 19, 2003